

5 What is claimed is:

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10 1. A system for initiating scheduled program processing functions for use in a video decoder receiving packetized program information from different broadcast sources, said packetized program information from an individual broadcast source containing program content, system timing and program specific information data, comprising:

selection means for selecting a desired program produced by a broadcast source;

15 means for tuning to receive packetized program information containing said program; and

20 a processor for identifying and acquiring system timing data comprising a current time reference indication provided by said broadcast source in said packetized program information wherein

25 said processor derives a time clock based on a current time reference indication produced by a particular broadcast source and uses said derived time clock in initiating scheduled processing functions for programs derived from said particular broadcast source.

30 2. A system according to claim 1 wherein, in initiating scheduled processing functions

35 said processor disregards a time clock derived from a current time reference indication produced by a source other than said particular broadcast source.

40 3. A system according to claim 1, wherein said processor updates a stored scheduling time clock with a clock value derived from a current time reference indication produced by said particular broadcast source prior to using said scheduling time clock in initiating scheduled processing functions for programs derived from said particular broadcast source.

said processor initiates scheduled processing functions using a clock value derived from a current time reference indication produced by a source other than said particular broadcast source.

6. A system according to claim 5, wherein said second time clock is a filtered time clock to prevent a user from seeing an abrupt time change discontinuity.

8. A system according to claim 5, wherein
said second time clock is updated using current time
reference indications independently of the broadcast source of
said current time reference indications.

10. A system according to claim 1, wherein said processor initiates a scheduled processing function in response to a user selection made via a displayed electronic program guide.

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10 14. A system for initiating scheduled program processing functions using an electronic program guide for use in a video decoder receiving packetized program information from different broadcast sources, said packetized program information from an individual broadcast source containing program content, a current time reference indication and program specific information data, comprising:

selection means for selecting a desired program produced by a broadcast source;

15 means for tuning to receive packetized program information containing said desired program;

20 a processor for initiating scheduled processing of said desired program in response to a user selection made via a displayed electronic program guide, said processor initiates said scheduled processing using a time clock derived from a current time reference indication produced by a particular broadcast source associated with said desired program; and

means for displaying a second time clock different to said derived time clock.

25 15. A system according to claim 14, wherein said second time clock is a filtered time clock to prevent a user from discerning a time change discontinuity.

30 16. A system according to claim 14, wherein said second time clock is updated during periods when said second time clock is not displayed to prevent a user from discerning a time change discontinuity.

35 17. A system according to claim 14, wherein said second time clock is updated using current time reference indications from a single source.

40 18. A system according to claim 14, wherein said second time clock is independent of said derived time clock and is received in a dedicated program guide channel.

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5 19. A system according to claim 18, wherein
said second time clock is embedded in the content of
said dedicated program guide channel.

10 20. A system according to claim 18, wherein
said second time clock is presented in said displayed
electronic program guide.

15 21. A method for initiating scheduled program
processing functions for use in a video decoder receiving
packetized program information from different broadcast sources,
said packetized program information from an individual broadcast
source containing program content, system timing and program
specific information data, comprising the steps of:

20 tuning to receive packetized program information
containing a desired program produced by a broadcast source;

identifying and acquiring system timing data
comprising a current time reference indication received from said
broadcast source in said packetized program information;

25 deriving a time clock based on a current time
reference indication produced by a particular broadcast source;
and

initiating scheduled processing functions for programs
from said particular broadcast source using said derived time
clock.

30 22. A method according to claim 21 including the step
of

35 disregarding a time clock derived from a current time
reference indication produced by a source other than said
particular broadcast source.

23. A system according to claim 21, wherein said
initiating scheduled processing functions step comprises
initiating a function including at least one of, a)
40 program recording, b) program playback and c) program tuning
and display.

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5 24. A method for initiating scheduled program
processing functions using an electronic program guide for use in
a video decoder receiving packetized program information from
different broadcast sources, said packetized program information
10 from an individual broadcast source containing program content, a
current time reference indication and program specific
information data, comprising the steps of:
 selecting a desired program produced by a broadcast
source;
 tuning to receive packetized program information
15 containing said desired program;
 deriving a time clock from a current time reference
indication received from a particular broadcast source associated
with said desired program;
 initiating scheduled processing of said desired
20 program using said derived time clock in response to a user
selection made via a displayed electronic program guide; and
 means for displaying a second time clock different to
said derived time clock.

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